

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

<b>Applicant:</b>	Minoru Tsuruta	<b>Examiner:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Serial No:</b>	To be assigned	<b>Art Unit:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Filed:</b>	Herewith	<b>Docket:</b>	15226
<b>For:</b>	MEDICAL RETRIEVAL INSTRUMENT	<b>Dated:</b>	February 26, 2002



Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. Japanese Utility Model Laid-Open Publication No. 1-172813, dated December 7, 1989 together with an English language abstract;
2. German Patent Application No. DE 33 13 895 A1, dated October 25, 1984 together with an English language abstract;
3. U.S. Patent No. 5,792,145, dated August 11, 1998, issued to Bates et al.;

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on February 26, 2002.

Dated: February 26, 2002

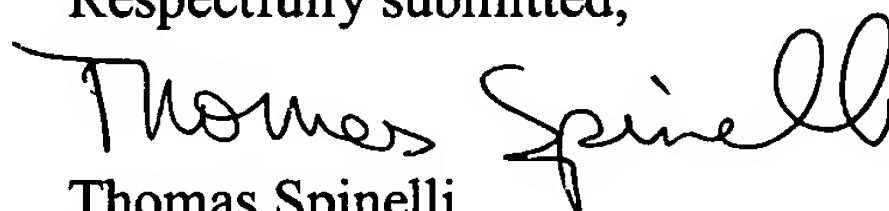
  
Mishelle Mustafa

4. U.S. Patent No. 5,064,428, dated November 12, 1991, issued to Cope et al.;  
and
5. U.S. Patent No. 6,174,318 B1, dated January 16, 2001, issued to Bates et al.

Applicants are submitting copies of the above-cited references. Reference 1 has been cited in the specification.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



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TS:cm